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apperceptive will, and it cannot inhibit concepts. This whole problem has grown in importance with the decline of the English theory of association, and the latter is due to the neglect of the phenomena of active apperception. Very feeble sensations strongly attended to alternately vanish and grow intense. The duration of the periodic wave of attention can thus be measured. Helmholtz had noticed this vacillation of unusual optical impressions in experiments with Masson's discs, and Urbantschitsch had noticed a similar phenomenon in the ticking of a watch not due to objective variation or to peripheral organs, but to central changes in attention. It is observed in cases of perforated tympanum, and so cannot be due to periodic tension of entotic muscles. That this is not due to the fatigue of the acoustic nerve, as Urbantschitsch thought, is shown by the fact that when the phenomenon is observed for both optical and acoustic sensations simultaneously, the two periodicities of the two series of sensations do not coincide, but are separated by a fixed interval. Thus the cause cannot lie in independent peripheral organs, but must lie in a common centre. Lange was able to register these vacillations of intensity chronoscopically, not only for one, but for two kinds of sensation simultaneously. These periods are longest for sound (3.5 to 4 seconds), next longest for light (3 to 3.4 seconds), and shortest for faint electrical stimuli (2.5 to 2.6 seconds). The average variation was less than one fourth of the entire period.

De la Répartition du Sang circulant dans l'Encéphale. Expériences faites au laboratoire de physiologie de l'Université de Bruxelles. E. SPEHL. L'Encéphale, 1887, Vol. I.

The old theory that the brain was congested in sleep was first effectively combatted by Durham in 1860. Since then the anaemic state of the cortex has been experimentally proven in four ways: 1. By experimentation on animals by Claude Bernard, Weir Mitchell, and others; 2. A little later, by observations of the movements of contraction and expansion in patients who have lost a part of the skull; 3. By observations on the same class of patients by the more precise graphic method—last and chiefest by Mosso; 4. A method preferred by Hammond, of ophthalmoscopic observation of the retina as reflecting the vascular state of the brain. The method of Spehl was to apply about the neck of a rabbit an apparatus by which all connection between the head and trunk could be instantly arrested and decapitation be then carefully made. Five animals in the normal condition were subjected to this treatment, and the weight of the whole body and that of the quantity of blood in the head and trunk carefully determined. Five more were treated then in the same way in a state of sleep induced by chloral, and the results compared. The average proportion of blood in the head in the latter series had sunk from one eighth to more than one eleventh, confirming thus the general conclusion that in sleep the brain as a whole is anaemic. The mode of experiment does not of course admit of discrimination between the quantity of blood in the head and in the brain only, and the inference from sleep produced by normal sleep to the hypnotism of chloral is obviously only highly probable. The author suggests, in conclusion, that the differences of opinion that have prevailed may be due to the active parts of the brain being congested and inactive parts anaemic at the same time.